GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2420
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2016
Right to Education Act
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that as per the recommendations in the draft New Education Policy (NEP), 2016, some amendments to the Right to Education Act, 2009 are likely to be made and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government is considering "consolidation" of "small, nonviable" schools in the country and if so, the details thereof and the likely impact on the students thereof; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure lesser drop out of girl children under the new policy; and
(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken with regard to the safety, time and distance management for the students attending schools covering long distances, especially for girls?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (d): 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016' has been formulated, wherein it has been recommended that within the parameters prescribed by the Right to Education(RTE) Act, States will have the flexibility to design and plan for the infrastructure keeping in view the local conditions. Local norms, appropriate for local conditions, will be evolved, if necessary through amendment in RTE Act, for 'alternate schools' which offer educational interventions for specific categories of very deprived and migrating children, and those living in difficult circumstances. It further envisages that, wherever possible, efforts will be made to convert existing non-viable schools into composite schools for optimum utilization of human, physical and infrastructural resources, better academic performances and cost effective management. When schools are merged they could be located in a single campus. In consultation with the States, common guidelines for merger and consolidation would be evolved, without diluting the provisions of the RTE Act.
With regard to girls education, the emphasis on learning outcomes, open schooling, remedial coaching, addressing issues of gender discrimination within the curricula, extension of RTE to cover secondary level and minimum standards for provision of facilities will help to promote their greater participation and also address issues of their safety etc.
Suggestions have been invited from the relevant Ministries of the Government of India, all States and UTs, Hon'ble MPs and all stakeholders by 16th August, 2016. Since the proposed policy is still at draft stage and is under deliberation, there is no finality of likely amendments to the RTE Act.
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